

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5142
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 15797

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. SUMMARY: KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO DISCUSSED
DECEMBER RELEASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WITH REPORTERS ON
NOVEMBER 16 AND 23, EMPHASIZING THAT ENTRANCE TO RESETTLEMENT
CENTERS WOULD BE COMPLETELY VOLUNARY. SUDOMO SAID 10,000
CLASS B DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED DECMEBER 15 AT VARIOUS
LOCATIONS, AND DIPLOMATS WOULD BE INVITED ON THAT DATE TO A
RELEASE CEREMONY IN MEDAN. NOTING THAT SOME DETAINEES WERE
STILL DIEHARD COMMUNISTS, HE SAID THESE WOULD BE THE LAST
ONES RELEASED UNDER THE GOVERNMENTS'S SCHEDULE. SUDOMO'S RE-
MARKS REPORTEDLY PARALLEL GOI RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S
INQUIRY ON RELEASES, WHICH WE EXPECT TO SEE IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
END SUMMARY.

2. KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO TALKED WITH
REPORTERS NOV 16 IN ORTH SUMATRA AND NOV 23 IN JAKARTA
CONCERNING THE PLANS FOR RELEASE OF 10,000 CLASS B DE-
TAINEES IN DECEMBER. EMBASSY DELAYED REPORTING NOT ALTTOGETHER
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CLEAR PRESS REPORTS OF NORTH SUMATRA COMMENTS UNTIL CONFIRMATION
RECEIVED. SUDOMO SAID THE RELEASES WOULD TAKE
PLACE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT INDONESIA ON DECEMBER
15, AND A CERMONY WILL BE HELD ON THAT DAY IN MEDAN
TO WHICH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WILL BE INVITED. HE NOTED THAT
ALL THOSE RELEASED WILL BE FREE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME
TOWNS, INCLUDING JAVANESE WHO HAVE BEEN HELD OUTSIDEJAVA.

IF THE RELEASEES HAVE NO FAMILY TO RECEIVE THEM OR ARE UN-
ABLE TO FIND WORK WITHIN SIX MONTHS THEY WILL BE PROPOSED
FOR ADMISSION TO ONE OF NINE RESETTLEMENT CENTERS IN SUMATRA,
KALIMANTAN, AND MALUKU, HE SAID. SUDOMO EMPHASIZED THAT EN-
TRANCE TO THE RESETTLEMENT CENTERS WOULD BE COMPLETELY VOLUN-
TARY AND WAS INTENDED TO GIVE RELEASEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO
SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES BY FARMING NEW LAND. HE STATED THAT
THOSE WHO GO TO RESETTLEMENT CENTERS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH
FOOD AND EQUIPMENT FOR ONE YEAR IN ADDITION TO THEIR LAND
AND HOUSING. SUDOMO ADDED THAT RELEASEES FROM BURU ISLAND
WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF RETURNING TO ORIGINAL HOMES
OR RESETTLING.

3. SUDOMO OBSERVED THAT BOTH CLASS A AND CLASS B DETAINEES
INCLUDE A NUMBER OF DIEHARD COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN
REHABILITATED. HE STATED THAT 900 CLASS A. DETAINEES HAVE
ALREADY BEEN TRIED AND SENTENCED FOR THEIR PART IN THE 1965
COUP ATTEMPT (VOA IN TWO BROADCASTS THIS WEEK ERROUNEOUSLY
REPORTED THAT THE 900 HAD BEEN EXECUTED), AND
THE 1600 REMAINING IN THAT CATEGORY WOULD BE TRIED (OR ASSIGNED
TO CLASS B FOR EVENTUAL RELEASE) BY THE END OF 1978.
THE HARD CASES IN CLASS B, HE SUD, WOULD BE GIVEN THE
LAST PRIORITY UNDER THE SCHEDULE OF RELEASES, AND IF THEY
HAD NOT CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE BY 1979 THEY MIGHT BE
DETAINED LONGER.

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4. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY CSIS (LIM BIAN KIE)
THAT SUDOMO'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOW CLOSELY THE GOI
RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S QUERIES REGARDING THE RE-
LEASES. LIM EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMBASSY A COPY
OF THAT RESPONSE BY NOV 28. LIM ADDED THAT PLANS NOW ARE
TO RELEASE BETWEEN 1500-1600 FROM BURU AND TO HAVE PUBLIC
CEREMONY ON THEIR ARRIVAL BY SHIP IN SURABAYA SOME TIME IN
JANUARY.

5. LIM BIAN KIE ALSO STATED THAT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
(ICRC) REPRESENTATIVES WILL ARRIVE IN JAKARTA NOV 28 TO
DISCUSS PLANS FOR THEIR JANUARY INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION
CENTERS IN INDONESIA.

6. BECAUSE OF ADMIRAL SUDOMO'S HEAVY SCHEDULE, HIS OFFICE
HAS AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT FOR CHARGE
TO DISCUSS RELEASES. SUDOMO WAS IN FACT ONLY IN JAKARTA
FOR SHORT STOP BETWEEN INSPECTION VISITS TO RESETTLEMENT
CENTERS.
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